

San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site

QUESTION: Will remediation of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site result in removing the fish advisories from the river and allow unlimited fish consumption?

ANSWER:

- No. Remediation of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Sites will remove a significant source of dioxin from the river. However, the fish advisories are in place as a result of PCB and pesticide levels in fish, as well as dioxin.
- Neither PCB nor pesticides originate from the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Site, but from other sources in the watershed. In addition, there are other dioxin sources that will remain following remediation of the Site.

BACKGROUND:

- The Site includes a set of impoundments built in the mid-1960s for disposal of paper mill pulp wastes containing dioxin. In 2008 the Site was added to the National Priorities List (NPL) and in 2009 EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order to International Paper Company and McGinnes Industrial Maintenance Corporation, the Potentially Responsible Parties for the Site, to conduct a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study. A Superfund time-critical removal action was completed in July of 2011 to place an armor rock cap to prevent the further release of dioxins into the environment.
- A remediation Feasibility Study is being prepared by the Potentially Responsible Parties for the Site under the direction of EPA. Alternatives under consideration include capping in place, partial removal, partial stabilization, and full removal. The EPA expects to issue a Record of Decision to select the Site remedy in 2014.
- The local community is very actively involved with Site issues. The EPA co-leads a Site Community Advisory Committee, including the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Harris County, Port of Houston, Houston Galveston Area Council, Galveston Bay Foundation, and the Potentially Responsible Parties.
- Congressional Inquiries: Rep. Green (TX) has inquired about this site, as has Rep. Stockman (TX) and Poe (TX).

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